

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00125 091659Z

46

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5191

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0125

NODIS

FOR SONNENFELT AND HARTMAN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, YO, US

SUBJECT: PLANNED "WASHINGTON POST" TOW ARTICLE

1. DUSKO DODER OF "WASHINGTON POST" HAS BEEN PROBING THE EMBASSY FOR OVER A MONTH CONCERNING A STORY HE WOULD LIKE TO WRITE ON ARMS SALES, CENTERING ON THE TOW MISSILE. HE FIRST HAD A SESSION WITH STARCEVIC, DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU, FSFA, WHO ACCORDING TO DODER TOLD HIM OF THE SECRETARY'S ALLEGED REMARK IN A MEETING WITH MINIC TO THE EFFECT THAT A DECISION ON TOW WOULD BE MADE IN SEVERAL WEEKS. HE WILL PEG THE STORY AROUND "NIN" ARTICLE OF DECEMBER 21 THAT DISCUSSES DESIRABILITY OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONRY, INCLUDING MISSILES. THIS ARTICLE, AND ONE IN "BORBA" TODAY ON SAME SUBJECT ARE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL. HE HAS RECENTLY HAD A SESSION WITH GRILIKOV, SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHO REITERATED THE SAME SORT OF STORY AND ALSO ADDED THAT TWO MILITARY DELEGATIONS FROM YUGOSLAVIA HAVE RECENTLY VISITED THE US TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF ARMS SALES. (WE THINK ONE OF THESE IS A GROUP WHO INVESTIGATED THE PURCHASE OF SOME SMALL ARMS COMMERCIALY AND ARE MYSTIFIED ABOUT THE OTHER). I HAVE TAKEN THE POSITION THAT NO SUCH DECISION ON MAJOR ARMS SALES TO GOY HAS BEEN MADE. DODER DOESN'T QUITE
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BELIEVE ME AND THINKS THERE HAS BEEN A DECISION AT A

POLITICAL LEVEL BUT SOME RESISTANCE SOMEWHERE IN
THE BUREAUCRACY.

2. I ASKED HIM TO CHECK THE MATTER IN WASHINGTON AND
HE CLAIMS THE "POST" HAS, ALTHOUGH I AM DUBIOUS.

3. I REGARD THE TIMING AS AWKWARD IN LIGHT OF THE
ANGOLA SITUATION BUT I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF GOY
IS USING DODER TO CROWD US ON TOW.

4. HAVING BEEN TALKED OUT OF THE STORY THREE TIMES
IN THE PAST, HE SEEMS ADAMANT AT THIS POINT
AND IS PLANNING A STORY WHICH WOULD APPEAR SOMETIME
BETWEEN SUNDAY AND TUESDAY. HE DOES NOT APPEAR
TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION YET ON OUR ANGOLA DEMARCHE.
SILBERMAN

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Message Attributes

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